

Department of Veterans Affairs Employee Education System

presents

COURSE NO. 02.ST.MH.CAPS.A

The Clinician Administered PTSD Scale (CAPS) for DSM-IV Independent Study

November 30, 2001 through November 30, 2002

in cooperation with

VA Northwest Network Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center

and

VA National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

Place: An Independent Study CD-ROM.

Completion time is 4 hours.

Purpose: The purpose of this independent study is to (a) provide instruction in the reliable administration of the Clinician Administered PTSD Scale (CAPS) for DSM-IV; (b) promote widespread use of the CAPS within the Department of Veterans Affairs and non-VA facilities and agencies; and (c) facilitate accomplishment of the highest clinical, research and educational objectives relevant to veterans with PTSD by improving accurate measurement of symptoms of this disorder.

Outcome Objectives: Upon completion of this Independent Study each participant will be able to:

1. Identify the DSM-IV symptoms of PTSD and criteria for diagnosis;
2. Discuss the CAPS purpose and history;
3. Explain the features of the CAPS;
4. Describe the procedure for orienting clients to the CAPS interview;
5. Describe the CAPS strategy for assessing traumatic stress exposure;
6. Explain the general CAPS interview and rating conventions; and
7. Explain the CAPS decision rules for determining symptom presence and for establishing the diagnosis of PTSD.

Target Audience:

Department of Veterans Affairs PTSD specialists and mental health clinicians that evaluate and/or treat veterans in in-patient and residential treatment settings, outpatient clinics, compensation and pension examination clinics, and community-based Vet Centers. Participants should have a basic knowledge of the diagnostic criteria for PTSD. The audience also includes VA researchers and program evaluators who study or monitor outcomes of PTSD services for veterans. Advanced optional content is provided for participants who have basic familiarity with the Clinician Administered PTSD Scale (CAPS) instrument and wish to learn more complex features of the tool.

**Accreditation/
Approval:**

Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME)
The VA Employee Education System is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to sponsor continuing medical education for physicians. VA Employee Education System takes responsibility for the content, quality and scientific integrity of this CME activity. This activity was planned and produced in accordance with the ACCME Essentials.

American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)

The VA Employee Education System is accredited as a provider of continuing education in nursing by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

American Psychological Association (APA)

The VA Employee Education System is approved by the American Psychological Association to offer continuing education for psychologists. The Employee Education System maintains responsibility for the program.

**Continuing
Education Credit:**

Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME)

The VA Employee Education System designates this educational activity for a maximum of 4 hours in category 1 credit towards the American Medical Association Physician's Recognition Award. Each physician should claim only those hours of credit that he/she actually spent in the educational activity.

American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)

The VA Employee Education System designates this educational activity for 5 contact hours as determined by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

American Psychological Association (APA)

As an organization approved by the American Psychological Association, the VA Employee Education System is offering this activity for 4 hours of continuing education credit. The Employee Education System maintains responsibility for the program.

Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage & Family Therapy, & Mental Health Counseling (FL SW)

This offering for 4 contact hours is sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs Employee Education System, Birmingham Campus which has been granted approval for its total program of continuing education in social work by the Board of Social Work Examiners of the Florida Department of Professional Regulation - **provider number BAP#439 - Exp. 3/03.**

Board of Behavioral Sciences (CA SW)

Course meets the qualifications for 4 hours of continuing education credit for Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT)* and/or for Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs) as required by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences PCE 521. *Previously Marriage, Family, and Child Counselors (MFCCs).

A certificate of attendance will be awarded to participants and accreditation records will be on file at the Employee Education System. In order to receive continuing education credit, participants must certify that he/she is the individual who completed 100 % of the program and complete an evaluation form and a knowledge test.

Report of Training:

It is the program participant's responsibility to ensure that this training is documented in the appropriate location according to his/her locally prescribed process.

Faculty Biographical Information

Dudley Blake, Ph.D. is the Co-Director of the Evaluation and Brief Treatment PTSD Unit at the Boise VA Medical Center. Before taking this position, Dr. Blake served as a Research Psychologist for the Department of Veteran's Affairs National Center for PTSD. In this capacity, he has co-authored over 25 published articles, chapters, and books on the assessment and treatment of PTSD, and led the National Center's multi-site project to develop the Clinician Administered PTSD Scale (CAPS). Dr. Blake's research interests include psychological assessment of PTSD, behavioral and cognitive therapy interventions with trauma survivors, and the impact of traumatic stressors on health.

Miles E. McFall, Ph.D. is Director of PTSD Programs and Director of Psychology Service at VA Puget Sound Health Care System (VA PSHCS). He also holds an academic faculty position, at the rank of Associate Professor, at the University of Washington School of Medicine. In his 17 years with the VA PSHCS, Dr. McFall provided leadership in developing an integrated, comprehensive network of PTSD programs, including an Evaluation/Brief Treatment PTSD Unit, a PTSD Residential Rehabilitation Program, and PTSD Clinical Teams. Dr. McFall has published extensively in the areas of assessment, diagnosis, and psychobiology of PTSD. Through his affiliation with the Northwest Network Mental Illness, Research, Education, and Clinical Center (MIRECC), he conducted treatment outcome research into PTSD and provided leadership in developing the Clinician Administered PTSD Scale (CAPS) CD-ROM instructional program.

Patricia Watson, Ph.D. is the deputy to the director of the National Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. She serves as the Deputy for Education and Clinical Networking, coordinating all educational programs and materials produced by the National Center. She is also an assistant professor at Dartmouth Medical School in the Department of Psychiatry. Special areas of interest include: trauma in children and adolescents, Critical Incident Stress Management, early intervention treatments for trauma, vicarious traumatization, the effects of childhood trauma on adult coping and development, and growth aspects of trauma.

Prior to her current position, she was a clinical psychologist in the Navy for eight years, serving as Director of the adult mental health outpatient program and program director of child and adolescent mental health in consecutive stations. During that time she served as Assistant Professor at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences Clinical Psychology, Ph.D. program, and Assistant Professor at University of Maryland, Masters in Counseling Program, Okinawa, Japan.

Education includes doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Catholic University, and postgraduate fellowship in pediatric psychology at Harvard Medical School.

Program Schedule

Clinician Administered PTSD Scale (CAPS) for DSM-IV

Courseware Introduction

Review the Basics

- PTSD Section Introduction
- Prevalence of Trauma Exposure and PTSD
- Diagnostic Criteria for PTSD
 - Criterion A - Exposure to a Traumatic Stressor
 - Criterion B - Re-experiencing Symptoms
 - Criterion C - Avoidance and Numbing Symptoms
 - Criterion D - Symptoms of Increased Arousal
 - Criterion E - Duration of Symptoms at Least One Month
 - Criterion F - Significant Distress or Impairment of Functioning

Learn the CAPS

Overview

- History, and Rationale for Development
- Purpose of the CAPS
- Features of the CAPS

Essentials

- Orienting Clients to the Interview
- CAPS Strategies for Assessing Traumatic Stress Exposure
- Interview and Rating Conventions for PTSD Symptoms
- CAPS Decision Rules for Diagnosing PTSD

Learn More (Optional Supplementary Information)

- Special Domain Assessment Scales
- Features Associated with PTSD
- Advanced Interviewing Skills
- Clinical Challenges

Administer the CAPS

- Observe an Expert - Somalia Veteran
- Score an Interview - Vietnam Veteran

Complete Registration, and Evaluation Forms

- Follow instructions provided on CD-ROM

Faculty and Planning Committee

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- * Denotes planning committee
- + Denotes faculty

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***Application
Procedure:***

If you wish to receive continuing education credit for this Independent Study you need to have access to the VA Intranet. A link will be provided from the CD-ROM to the site where you will register for the program, take your required knowledge test and complete the program evaluation questions.

By entering your user name and password you are verifying your social security number that we have on record and certifying that you are the person completing this Independent Study and answering the test questions.

In order to receive credit, a passing score of 70 % on the final test is required. You will need to answer 28 of the 40 multiple choice or true/false questions correctly. If you pass the test you will be issued a certificate. If you do not pass the test you will be notified immediately. You will be given an opportunity to take the test one more time prior to the expiration date of this Independent Study. Upon notification of your failure, proceed to the section titled "My Test" to review your test results on each test item and identify the questions you answered incorrectly. This will help you identify the section you need to review before taking the test again. You will need to retake the entire test, not just the items you missed.

Deadline Date:

The deadline for completing this Independent Study is November 30, 2002. At that time this program will be reviewed for renewal of the accreditation for this Independent Study. Information on participation may be obtained from Deborah Dorsey, Project Manager, (314) 894-6648, ext. 4541; St. Louis Center, Bldg. 2, Jefferson Barracks Drive, St. Louis, MO 63125.

***Americans with
Disabilities Act
Policy:***

The Employee Education System wishes to ensure no individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated or otherwise treated differently from other individuals participating in this independent study because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services. If you require any special arrangements to fully participate in this independent study, please contact Deborah Dorsey, Project Manager, (314) 894-6648, ext. 4541.

Faculty Disclosures

The Employee Education System (EES) must insure balance, independence, objectivity, and scientific rigor to all EES sponsored educational activities. The intent of this disclosure is not to prevent faculty with a significant financial or other relationship from presenting materials, but rather to provide the participant with information on which they can make their own judgments. It remains for the participant to determine whether the faculty interests or relationships influence the materials presented with regard to exposition or conclusion. When an unapproved use of a FDA approved drug or medical device, or an investigational product not yet FDA approved for any purpose is mentioned, EES requires disclosure to the participants.

Each faculty reported no disclosable relationships or FDA issues.

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